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STUDYING EXTENSION WORK WITH FARMERS AND FARM
HOMEMAKERS IN WASHINGTON PARISH, LOUISIANA

PART II - NEGRO FAMILIES 1/

Agricultural Extension Service
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, La.
November, 1950

The study covered by this report was made under the direction of G.L. Burleson, Program Analyst, Louisiana Extension Service, with Dr. Gladys Gallup, Assistant Chief, and Mrs. Laurel Sabrosky, Extension Analyst, Division of Field Studies and Training, Extension Service, U.S.D.A. as consultants in tabulations, analyses and interpretation.

1/ (PART I-WHITE FAMILIES For convenience
a report on this part of the study is
being given under a separate cover.)

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FOREWORD

A program of Extension studies was started in the spring of 1949. These studies were designed as the beginning of a continuous process of evaluation to help us, as Extension workers, to analyze ourselves, our activities, the people with whom we work and the effectiveness of the Extension program.

The first parish study, A Study of Agricultural Extension Work in Lafourche Parish, was made in May, 1949, and reported as Agricultural Extension Publications No. 1053, September, 1950.

A study of Extension work in Red River Parish was the second in the series. This study was reported in mimeograph form in November, 1950, under title, "Studying Extension Work with Farmers and Farm Homemakers in Red River Parish, Louisiana", Part I - White Families, and Part II, - Negro Families.

This study of Extension work in Washington Parish is the third in the series. The fourth is to be made in Madison Parish during the early part of 1951. Field work for that study is tentatively planned for May.

These studies deal with the general effectiveness of Extension work. They will be followed by intensive studies of the effectiveness of Extension in special fields, including both programs and teaching methods.

H. C. Sanders
Director

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to determine the extent to which farmers and farm homemakers in Washington Parish have adopted farm and home practices that have been recommended by the Extension Service; the effectiveness of the teaching methods used; the extent to which farmers and farm homemakers have contact with Extension; and the knowledge farmers and farm homemakers have of the Extension Service.

HOW THE STUDY WAS MADE

Information was obtained in May, 1950, from 163 white farm families through the personal interview method. The sample of families to be interviewed was taken from a random list of white farm families in the parish by taking every tenth name, starting with a randomly selected number.

In addition to the 163 white families, 93 Negro farm families were selected in the same manner by taking every fifth name from a random list of Negro families. Sharecroppers were not included in the study.

The interviewing was done by seven men and six women, all Extension workers. Eleven were from the state Extension office. Two were county agents. One of the county agents was from an adjoining parish, the other from a nearby parish. The same enumerator interviewed both the farmer and homemaker in a family. The agents in Washington Parish were not included as interviewers, but they actively assisted with the planning and conduct of the study.

DESCRIPTION OF WASHINGTON PARISH

Washington Parish is located in the northeast corner of that part of Louisiana which lies east of the Mississippi River. It is one of the Florida Parishes, a region of romantic history over which many flags have flown and which existed as an independent republic for 76 days in 1810. The republic was occupied by United States troops that same year and afterward was added to the new state of Louisiana. Washington Parish was created in 1819 by an act of the legislature subdividing St. Tammany Parish. Franklinton has been the parish seat since that time.

The Florida Parishes area received its first important influx of settlers shortly before the Revolutionary War when it was a British colony known as West Florida. The settlers were British soldiers who had fought in the French and Indian Wars and were paid in land. Other settlers came mostly from the older states. French and Spanish rule had little influence on the particular area that is now Washington Parish. The parish was sparsely settled, mostly by English-speaking white people, until the turn of the 20th century. According to the U.S. census bureau the population in 1900 was 9,628. In 1940 it was 34,443. A preliminary report of the 1950 census places the population at 38,265, an increase of 11.1 per cent over 1940. About two-thirds are white and one-third Negro.

The most rapid growth in population came after 1906 when Bogalusa, now the principal city of the parish, was founded as the site of the Great Southern Lumber Company, for many years the world's largest yellow pine sawmill. The mill closed in 1936, but a large paper and container company has located at Bogalusa and the processing of forest products is still the chief industry of the parish. A number of small sawmills now are located there. Considerable reforestation has been done. Practically all of the original stand of timber, which was chiefly pine, has been cut.

The land area of Washington Parish is 425, 344 acres. Topographically, the land is divided into upland and terrace. The upland areas are gently rolling to rough hilly. The terrace areas are almost level. According to the 1945 agricultural census there were 3,028 farms in Washington Parish that year. They contained a total of 217,167 acres, of which 76,709 were in crops, 57,302 in pasture, and 72,167 in woodland other than pasture. The average farm size was 71.8 acres.

The most important crops in 1945 were cotton, corn grown for feed, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, and commercial vegetables. Principal hay crops were soybeans and cowpeas, lespedeza, and small grain. Dairy cattle, beef cattle, hogs, and sheep are raised. Dairying is very important in the parish, which is located about 90 miles from New Orleans and is one of the principal producers of milk for sale in the city. In the year 1944, the latest for which complete figures are available, dairying supplied 31 per cent of the farm income and all livestock 48.9 per cent as compared to 49.3 for all crops. Tung trees grow well in the parish and give promise of becoming an important source of income.

Washington Parish was chosen for the survey because its agriculture and its people are considered typical of the part of the state in which it is located.

THE EXTENSION PROGRAM

Farm demonstration work was started in Washington Parish in 1909, which was five years before passage of the Smith-Lever Act. Since the beginning, the parish has been served continuously by a county agent, with the exception of one or two brief periods during the first world war. Including the present agent, there have been 14 different county agents employed in the parish during the 41 years of Extension work.

Home demonstration work was started in May, 1916, and has continued, without interruption except for changes of personnel, up to the present time. Nine different home demonstration agents have worked in the parish.

The first assistant county agent was appointed in January, 1935. Ten different men have served as assistant county agent since that time.

The first assistant home demonstration agent was appointed in August, 1938. Five different persons have served as assistant home demonstration agent.

An assistant county agent for Work with Negroes was appointed and started to work in the parish on March 13, 1922. Four different persons have served in the parish during the 28 years since the first Negro agent was employed.

An assistant home demonstration agent for Work with Negroes was employed in the parish from July, 1923 to October, 1930.

Broadly speaking, the purpose of Extension work in the parish is to help develop people that they may more easily identify and solve the various problems that affect their own welfare. Working toward this broad objective, the program is set up to help increase the knowledge and skills of the people; to encourage more efficient farming and the building of better homes; to produce a higher income and raise the standard and scale of living. Within this broad framework of fundamental aims, the Extension program has included the following:

County Agents:

1. Corn. Varieties, fertilization, culture.
2. Pastures. Soil preparation, fertilization, seeding, clipping, renovation.

County Agents: (Cont'd)

3. Supplemental Grazing for Dairy Cattle. Oats and oats in mixture with legumes for winter grazing, fescue, sudan or Alyce clover for summer grazing.
4. Dairy Cattle. Breeding, feeding, management.
5. Swine. Breeding, feeding, parasite, and disease control
6. Forestry. Planting seedlings, improving farm wood lot, selective cutting and marketing.
7. Cotton. Varieties, fertilization, cultivation, insect control.
8. Beef Cattle. Breeding, feeding, disease and parasite control.
9. Soil Conservation. Terracing, drainage, manure crops, soil testing.

Home Demonstration Agents:

1. Nutrition and Health
 - a. Food production. Poultry; gardening; home orchards.
 - b. Food selection and preparation.
 - c. Food preservation. Canning; freezing; storing.
 - d. Health. 4-H project; health council.
2. Clothing. Selection, construction.
3. Housing and home furnishings. House plans, electrification, electric outlets, electric appliances, furnishing, upholstery, slip covering, yard improvement.
4. Home Management. Selection of equipment and furnishings, arrangement of equipment, and furnishings, storage.

While there was no overall advisory group in the parish prior to early 1950, the following groups and organizations have contributed to the determination and execution of the Extension program: Home Demonstration Council, 4-H Executive Committee, Fair Association, Cattlemen's Association.

The projects open to 4-H Club members are included in the Extension program for the parish. In 1949 there were 10 organized clubs for Negro children, with and enrollment of 327 boys and 376 girls.

CHAPTER I

WASHINGTON PARISH AND ITS PEOPLE

A Large Proportion of the Farmers and Homemakers Have Lived on Their Farms and in the Parish 10 Years or More.

Seventy-seven percent of these Negro farmers and 71 percent of the homemakers have lived on their farms for ten years or more. (Table 1.) Ninety-seven percent of the farmers and 89 percent of the homemakers have lived in the parish for at least ten years.

Table 1.--Length of Time Farmers Have Farmed This Place and Farmed in the Parish. Length of Time Homemakers Have Lived as Homemakers on This Place and in the Parish.

Item	On Farm		In Parish	
	Farmer	Homemaker	Farmer	Homemaker
Number of records	91	92	91	92
Percentage:				
Less than 1 year	1.1	2.2	0.0	1.1
1-4 years	9.9	13.0	2.2	7.6
5-9 years	14.2	14.1	1.1	2.2
10 years and over	74.6	70.6	96.6	89.1

Size of Farms

Eighty-eight percent of the farms have less than 50 acres. (Table 2). Twelve percent are 50 acres or more in size.

Table 2.--Acres in Cropland

Acres	Farms
Number of records	93
Percentage of farmers having:	
1-19 acres	30.1
20-29 acres	30.1
30-39 acres	28.0
50 acres or over	11.8

Major Sources of Farm Income

Washington Parish is located in the hill section in the extreme east and southeast part of the state. It is known locally as one of the "Florida Parishes".

The major sources of farm income of these families are cotton, corn, beef cattle, dairying, hogs, and truck crops. (Table 3)

Table 3.—Major Sources of Farm Income

Number of records	163
Percentage of farmers naming:	
Cotton	83.9
Corn	40.9
Beef Cattle	15.1
Dairying	7.5
Hogs	6.5
Truck Crops	26.9
Forest Products	1.1

Portion of Family Money-Income Made From Farm

Fifty-three percent of the families derive all their cash income from the farm. An additional 25 percent get half or more than half from the farm. The others have an income from such sources as work at the paper mill and at sawmills.

Tenure Status

Ninety-four percent of the farmers are owners or part owners; two percent are managers, and four percent are tenants.

Transportation Is Good

The roads are good. There is a comprehensive system of parish-maintained gravelled roads which reach all communities in the parish. The paved highways in the parish connect with interstate highways.

Eighteen percent of the families own automobiles; 31 percent own trucks. Forty-seven percent of the families have either a car or truck. Seventeen percent of the homemakers drive a car.

The Farm Homes

The farm houses are fairly large. They average approximately five rooms per house. The average number of persons per room is less than one. Space, therefore, would seem to be adequate in these homes. Fifty-seven percent of the houses are unpainted frame. Most of the other are painted frame. A few are of brick or concrete,

Home Facilities

Sixty-two percent of the houses have electricity and an equal percentage have electric lights. (Table 4.) Eighty-nine percent have radios in working order.

Sixty-nine percent have sewing machines, and 55 percent have pressure cookers or pressure canners. However, only 14 percent have running water in the house, and three percent have complete bath rooms. Five percent have power washing machines; 18 percent have mechanical refrigerators.

Table 4.--Home Facilities

Number of records	93
Percentage of homes with:	
Running water in house	14.0
Complete bathroom	3.2
Electricity	62.4
Radio in working order	89.2
Power washing machine	5.4
Refrigerator	
Mechanical	18.3
Ice	48.4
Sewing machine	68.8
Telephone	3.2
Home freezer	2.2
Rented locker space	4.3
Pressure cooker or pressure canner for canning ...	54.8

FARM FAMILIES IN WASHINGTON PARISH

Age of Farm People

Of the farmers, 12 percent are under 35 years of age; 39 percent are from 35 to 49; and 49 percent are 50 years and over. (Table 5.)

The homemakers are a little younger than the farmers. Fifteen percent are under 35 years of age, 47 percent are from 35 to 49, and only 38 percent are over 50. (Table 5.)

Formal Schooling

Eighteen percent of the farmers and 34 percent of the homemakers have had eight or more years of formal schooling. (Table 5.) However, 48 percent of the farmers and 25 percent of the homemakers have had only four years or less.

A Large Percentage of the Families Have Children at Home

Forty-six percent of the families have children under 10 years of age. Forty-three percent have children 10 to 18 years of age. Twenty-eight percent of the families have young men and young women at home from 19 to 30 years of age, other than farmer or homemaker.

Of the families who have children 10 to 18 years of age, 67 percent have at least one child in a 4-H Club.

Radio, Newspapers, and Magazines

Eighty-nine percent of the families have a radio, and 19 percent of them take a daily or weekly paper. (Table 6.) Fifty-eight percent of the families take a farm or home magazine.

Table 5.--Educational Training of Farmers and Homemakers

Item	Farmers	Homemakers
Number of records	91	92
Percentage of individuals in age groups:		
Under 30 years	3.3	9.8
30-34 years	8.8	5.4
35-39 years	9.9	16.3
40-44 years	12.1	17.4
45-49 years	16.5	13.0
50 years and over	49.4	38.0
Percentage of individuals completing no more than:		
4 years or less	48.4	25.0
5-6 years	29.7	30.4
7 years	3.3	10.9
8 years	5.5	18.5
Some high school	5.5	6.5
Completed high school	4.3	6.5
Some college	3.4	2.3

Table 6.--Radio Newspapers, and Magazines in the Home

Number of records	93
Percentage of homes having radios in working order	89.2
Percentage of homes taking any paper	18.5
Daily paper	7.6
Weekly paper	18.5
Both daily and weekly paper	6.1
Percentage of homes taking any farm or home magazine	57.6

Participation of Farmers and Homemakers in Organizations Other than Extension Sponsored

Fourteen percent of the farmers and 10 percent of the homemakers belong to farm or home organizations other than those sponsored by Extension. (Table 8.) Approximately 30 percent of the farmers and homemakers take part in civic and school organizations. Over 90 percent of the farmers and homemakers attend church

and church organizations.

Table 8.—Participation of Farmers and Homemakers in Organizations Other Than Those Sponsored by Extension

	Farmer	Homemaker
Number of records	92	92
Percentage who participate in or attended during last year:		
Farm or home organizations	14.1	9.8
Civic or school organizations	31.5	29.3
Lodges and similar organizations	8.7	4.3
Church and church organizations	92.3	94.5
Other organizations	16.5	12.1

Knowledge of Extension Work

A high percentage of both farmers and homemakers know something of Extension work. (Table 7) Ninety percent of the farmers and 87 percent of the homemakers can identify the county agent or assistant agent. Seventy-one percent of the farmers and 68 percent of the homemakers know the home demonstration agent or assistant home demonstration agent. Approximately 60 percent of the farmers and homemakers know something of 4-H Club work. It might be pointed out that the present home demonstration agent has been in the parish several years while during this same time there has been numerous changes of county agents. However, the present assistant county agent for work with Negroes has been employed in the parish continuously since 1942.

Table 7.—Knowledge of Extension Service Work

Item	Farmer	Homemaker
Number of records	91	92
Percentage saying they:		
Know who the county agent is	90.0	86.9
Know who the home demonstration agent is	70.7	68.4
Know something of 4-H Club work	64.4	57.6
Participation in Extension Sponsored Organizations		
Percentage who:		
Are members of the parish cattlemen's association	4.4	xxxx
Have ever been a member of the parish cattlemen's association	4.4	xxxx
Have children in 4-H Club	25.6	25.6
Have ever had children in 4-H Club	52.2	52.2

CHAPTER II

FARMERS AND HOMEMAKERS HAVE ADOPTED PRACTICES

Practices That Have Been Emphasized in the Extension Program and Singled out for Study

The Extension programs have recommended and emphasized many farm and homemaking practices for the parish. A check was made in this study of 12 farm practices and 12 homemaking practices to determine the extent to which they have been adopted by the farmers and homemakers. This should give one measure of the effectiveness of Extension work with these people.

Ninety-six percent of the farmers and 97 percent of the homemakers have adopted one or more of the practices. (Tables 7 and 8) The percentage of farmers adopting the practices varies from 94 who use recommended varieties of cotton to 23 percent who vaccinate calves to control Bang's disease. The percentage of homemakers adopting the practices ranges from 90 who use a hotwater bath in canning fruit and tomatoes down to 19 percent who vaccinate chickens to prevent chicken pox.

Approximate Number of Years Practices Have Been Emphasized in the Extension Program

Some practices have been emphasized in the Extension program for only a few years while others have been emphasized for a much longer period of time. (Tables 7 and 8) There appears to be little or no correlation between the percentage of farmers or homemakers adopting the practices and the number of years the practices have been emphasized in the Extension program.

Who Are the Farmers and Homemakers Who Have Adopted Practices?

A much higher percentage of the farmers and homemakers who have had much contact 1/ with Extension, those who have a high level of living 2/, and those who have more formal schooling (farmers who have had 5 years or more, and homemakers who have had 7 years or more) have adopted the practices than have the other

1/ Farmers who have had 10 or more different kinds of Extension contacts and homemakers who have had 9 or more are interpreted as having had "much contact".
2/ The short form of the Farm Family Socio-economic Status Scale is used in this study for the purpose of analysis. A level of living index of 60 or above is interpreted as "high" and 59 or under as "low".

comparable groups.

The Extent to Which Farmers and Homemakers Have Not Adopted Practices and
Some Reasons Why They Have Not.

As already brought out a few of the practices have been adopted by a high percentage of the farmers and homemakers. However, it might be well to consider here the percentages who have not adopted the practices.

The percentage of farmers not adopting the practices ranges from 77 who have not adopted the practice of vaccinating calves to control Bang's disease to six percent who are not using recommended varieties of cotton. For homemakers the percentage not adopting the practices ranges from 81 who have not adopted the practice of vaccinating chickens to prevent chicken pox to 10 who have not adopted the practice of using hot water bath in canning fruit and tomatoes.

An effort was made in the study to learn some reasons why farmers and homemakers have not adopted the practices. However, in getting the reasons the enumerator was instructed to ask reasons on only the first non-adopted practice that applied to the farm or home. Following are reasons given by the farmers and homemakers for not adopting a few of the practices.

<u>Practice</u>	<u>FARMERS</u>	<u>No. Times Given</u>
<u>Using DDT or Methoxychlor to control lice or flies on cattle.</u>		
Never have known enough about it		9
Don't have money to pay for material		4
Cattle are on open range		4
Just has not done it		4
Flies never have been bad		2
Afraid of poisoning cattle		1
<u>Using hybrid corn as a part of or all the crop.</u>		
Never have learned enough about hybrids		5
Weevils damage hybrid corn too much		3
Don't like hybrid corn		2
Grains are too hard		1
See no reason for hybrids		1
Would have to buy new seed every year		1
<u>Vaccinating calves to control Bang's disease.</u>		
Never had heard about it		5
Never have had any trouble in cattle from Bang's		2
Don't keep calves as herd replacements		1
<u>Treating hogs to control cholera.</u>		
Never had any trouble from cholera among hogs		4

<u>Treating calves with phenothiazine or bluestone to control round worms.</u>	
Never have known exactly how to do it	5
Just have not done it	1
<u>Improving pasture by fertilizing, liming, etc.</u>	
Do not have the money	2
<u>Using Sudan grass or Alyce clover for summer grazing or hay.</u>	
Not enough available land	1
Pastures not fenced off	1
Just have not done it	1

Practice

HOMEMAKERS

No. Times
Given

<u>Using brooder instead of hens for brooding baby chicks.</u>	
Not financially able to purchase brooder	5
Never have had time to build a brooder	1
Never have built a brooder	1
Like hens better	1
Brooder requires too much attention	1
Not convinced that brooder would be better than hens	1

<u>Vaccinating chickens to control chicken pox.</u>	
Never have had any trouble with chicken pox among chickens..	9
Don't know what to use	2
Never have heard about it	2

<u>Controlling round worms in chickens.</u>	
Never knew about it	8
Chickens seem never to need it	3
Never had any trouble from round worms in chickens	2
Never had thought about it	2

<u>Controlling coccidiosis in baby chicks by use of sulphur and charcoal or sulfa drugs.</u>	
Don't know about it	4

<u>Improving furniture by refinishing or reupholstering.</u>	
Have new furniture	2

<u>Producing year-round vegetable garden.</u>	
Weather gets too dry sometimes	1

Table 7.—Farmers who Have Adopted Practices and Approximate Number of Years Practice Has Been Emphasized.

Practice	Percentage of farmers who have adopted practice	Approximate number of years emphasized
Any practice	96.6	
1. Using DDT or methoxychlor to control lice or flies on cattle.	38.7	5
2. Vaccinating calves to control Bang's disease.	22.5	3
3. Treating calves with phenothiazine or bluestone to control round worms.	32.5	5
4. Using Sudan grass or Alyce clover for summer grazing or hay.	29.6	4
5. Producing a winter pasture of oats, fescue grass, winter peas, vetch or clover.	42.2	4
6. Improving pasture by fertilizing, liming or seeding to recommended varieties of grass or clover.	27.5	9
7. Using minerals as a supplement in feeding livestock.	34.0	10
8. Vaccinating pigs to prevent cholera.	87.3	15
9. Treating pigs with worm capsules or sodium floride in the feed to control round worms.	57.7	8
10. Using recommended varieties of cotton.	93.6	10
11. Using hybrid corn as a part or all the crop.	40.2	4
12. Using winter legumes as a soil improvement crop.	49.4	15

Table 8.—Homemakers Who Have Adopted Practices and Approximate Number of Years Practice Has Been Emphasized

Practice	Percentage of homemakers who have adopted practice	Approximate number of years emphasized
Any practice	97.7	
1. Using brooder instead of hens for brooding baby chicks.	77.9	10
2. Using early hatched baby chicks.	77.9	6
3. Controlling round worms in chickens by use of capsules or other individual treatment.	55.8	15
4. Controlling lice on chickens by use of either sodium floride or nicotine sulphate.	55.8	10
5. Vaccinating chickens to prevent chicken pox.	18.6	12
6. Using pressure cooker in canning low-acid vegetables and meats.	68.9	25
7. Using hot water bath in canning fruits and tomatoes.	90.1	25
8. Producing a year-round vegetable garden that furnishes at least two fresh vegetables each day throughout the year.	60.9	15
9. Improving home grounds by planting shrubbery to improve appearance or to screen off ugly fences or buildings.	46.7	10
10. Providing compact spacing in arrangement of large pieces of kitchen equipment.	19.5	5
11. Providing storage space for supplies and small pieces of kitchen equipment convenient to the worker.	28.2	5
12. Improving furniture by refinishing.	23.9	4

CHAPTER III

SOURCES OF INFORMATION THAT CONTRIBUTED TO ADOPTION OF FARM AND HOME- MAKING PRACTICES

In addition to finding the extent to which farmers and homemakers have adopted recommended practices, data were obtained on sources of information that helped these people decide to adopt the practices.

Farmers and Homemakers Name Extension Teaching Methods as a Source of Information.

One hundred percent of the farmers and homemakers who have adopted practices named Extension teaching methods as a source of information for adoption of practices. (Tables 9 and 10) Fifty-three percent of the farmers and 38 percent of the homemakers named farm or home visits as a source of information. Thirty-three percent of the farmers and 72 percent of the homemakers named indirect influence, that is, neighbors and friends who had obviously received the information from Extension.

For farmers, the percentage naming the different teaching methods ranges from 53 for farm or home visits to zero for telephone calls. The percentage for homemakers ranges from 72 for indirect influence to zero for correspondence and Extension exhibits.

If the teaching methods are grouped into the following groups, (1) methods which reach individuals, (2) methods which reach people in groups, (3) methods which reach people in masses, and (4) indirect influence, and adjusted to 100 it will read:

	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>Homemaker</u>
Individual methods	27.9	11.4
Group methods	27.7	29.0
Mass media	35.3	42.2
Indirect	9.1	17.4

Mass media is named by 35 percent of the farmers and 42 percent of the homemakers. Twenty-eight percent of the farmers and 11 percent of the homemakers named individual methods.

Farmers and Homemakers Named Non-Extension Sources of Information

Forty-eight percent of the farmers and 42 percent of the homemakers named

non-Extension sources of information that helped them decide to adopt practices.

The farmers named such non-Extension sources as agricultural teachers, seed dealers, neighbors and friends, Soil Conservation Service, Production and Marketing Administration, Farmers' Home Administration, and Veterans' Instructors.

The homemakers named such sources as canning manuals, merchants, magazines, home economics teachers, friends, relatives, mail order catalogues, and Veterans' Instructors.

Table 9.--Sources of Information for Adoption of Farm Practices

Number of farmers adopting any practice	88
Percentage of these farmers who named:	
Extension source	100.0
Farm or home visits	52.7
Method demonstration meeting	39.5
Circular letter	39.5
Other meetings	37.3
Radio broadcast	34.0
Indirect	32.7
Bulletin	31.8
Result demonstration	26.4
Leader training meeting	18.7
Office call	13.2
News item	12.1
Correspondence	4.4
Extension exhibit	4.4
Telephone conversation	0.0

Table 10.--Sources of Information for Adoption of Homemaking Practices

Number of homemakers adopting any practice	90
Percentage of these homemakers who named:	
Extension source	100.0
Indirect	72.2
Bulletin	63.3
Method demonstration	63.3
Circular letter	56.7
Radio broadcast	45.6
Other meetings	37.8
Farm or home visit	35.6
Leader training meeting	20.0
News item	11.1
Result demonstration	7.8
Office calls	3.3
Correspondence	0.0
Extension exhibit	0.0

CHAPTER IV

TO WHAT EXTENT HAVE FARMERS AND HOMEMAKERS BEEN EXPOSED TO EXTENSION TEACHING?

All of the farmers and homemakers have been exposed to one or more of the Extension teaching methods. Ninety-seven percent of the farmers and 98 percent of the homemakers have made some practical use of the information in adopting practices. (Tables 11 and 12)

For farmers the ratio of takes to exposures is above 50 percent for farm visits, other meetings, method demonstrations, result demonstrations, and leader training meetings. The ratio for the other methods ranges from 48 percent for bulletins down to zero for correspondence.

The effectiveness of Extension teaching with these people would seem therefore to be fairly high.

Table 11.—The Extent to which Farmers Have Been Exposed to Extension Teaching

Teaching Methods	Percentage of Farmers		Ratio of Takes to Exposures
	Exposed to (Exposures)	Influenced by (Takes)	
Circular letter	94.4	39.5	.42
Radio broadcast	83.4	34.0	.41
Bulletin	82.4	39.5	.48
Correspondence	79.1	4.4	.06
Office call	76.9	13.2	.17
Extension exhibit	76.9	4.4	.06
Farm or home visit	74.7	52.7	.68
Other meeting	70.3	37.3	.53
Method demonstration meeting	60.4	39.5	.65
Result demonstration	51.6	26.4	.51
News item	37.3	12.1	.32
Leader training meeting	32.9	18.7	.56
Telephone conversation	6.6	0.0	.00
Any Extension method	100.0	96.6	.97

For homemakers the ratio is above 50 percent for circular letters, radio broadcasts, bulletins, method demonstrations, farm or home visits, other meetings and leader training meetings. The ratio for the other methods ranges from 31 percent for news items to zero for Extension exhibits and correspondence.

Table 12.--The Extent to Which Homemakers Have Been Exposed to Extension Teaching

Teaching Method	Percentage of homemakers		Ratio of Takes to Exposures
	Exposed to (Exposures)	Influenced by (Takes)	
Circular letter	86.9	55.4	.64
Radio broadcast	79.3	44.5	.56
Extension exhibit	73.6	0.0	.00
Bulletin	67.3	61.9	.92
Method demonstration	63.0	61.9	.98
Farm or home visit	60.8	34.8	.57
Other meetings	52.1	36.9	.71
Leader training meeting	34.8	19.5	.56
Correspondence	33.3	0.0	.00
News item	34.8	10.9	.31
Office call	32.6	3.3	.10
Result Demonstration	28.2	7.6	.27
Telephone conversation	7.6	1.1	.15
Any Extension method	100.0	97.8	.98

SUMMARY

Section II of this study covers Negro families only, and does not include share croppers. It is recognized, however, that Extension work covers other segments of the population, and includes sharecroppers as well as people in towns and small rural centers not represented in this study.

What Extension Wanted to Find Out.

1. The extent to which farmers and homemakers have adopted farm and homemaking practices that have been recommended by Extension.
2. The effectiveness of teaching methods used.
3. The extent to which farmers and homemakers have contact with Extension.
4. The knowledge farmers and homemakers have of Extension.

How the Study Was Made

The information was obtained in May, 1950, through personal interviews with the farmers and homemakers in 93 farm families. These families were selected from a list of names in a random list of Negro farm families by taking every fifth name, starting with a randomly selected number. The interviewing was done by six women and seven men, all Extension workers. Eleven of these were from the state Extension office. Two were county agents. One county agent was from an adjoining parish, the other from a nearby parish. The same person interviewed both the farmer and homemaker in the family.

The Farmers and Farm Houses

Over 70 percent of these families have lived on their present farms for 10 years or more, and 90 percent have lived in the parish for at least 10 years.

Size of Farms.

Eighty-eight percent of the farms have less than 50 acres, and 60 percent have less than 30 acres.

Major Sources of Farm Income.

The major sources of farm income are from dairying, cotton, corn, beef cattle, hogs, and truck crops.

Partion of Farm Income from Farm.

Fifty-three percent of these families derive all their cash income from the farm. Others have an income from such sources as work at the paper mill and at saw mills.

Tenure Status.

Eighty-four percent of the farmers are owners or part owners, and four percent tenants.

Farm Houses.

The homes average approximately five rooms per house. The average number of persons per room is a little less than one.

Home Facilities.

Sixty-two percent of the homes have electricity and an equal percentage have electric lights. Eighty-nine percent have radios in working order. Sixty-nine percent have sewing machines, and 55 percent have pressure cookers or pressure canners for canning. A low percentage have running water in the house, complete bath rooms, washing machines, and mechanical refrigerators.

Age.

Forty-nine percent of the farmers and 38 percent of the homemakers are 50 years of age or over. Thirty-nine percent of the farmers and 47 percent of the homemakers are from 35 to 49.

Formal Schooling.

Eighteen percent of the farmers and 34 percent of the homemakers have had eight or more years of formal schooling. Forty-eight percent of the farmers and 25 percent of the homemakers have had only four years or less.

Families with Children at Home.

Forty-six percent of the families have children under 10 years of age, and 43 percent have children from 10 to 18.

Of the families who have children from 10 to 18 years of age, 67 percent have at least one child in a 4-H Club.

Knowledge of Extension Work.

Ninety percent of the farmers and 87 percent of the homemakers can identify the county agent or an assistant county agent. Seventy-one percent of the farmers and 68 percent of the homemakers know the home demonstration agent or one of her assistants. Sixty percent of the farmers and homemakers know something of 4-H Club work.

WHAT SHOULD THIS STUDY MEAN TO EXTENSION?

It is evident from the data collected in this study that the Extension Services' way of working with farm people is effective with a high percentage of these farm families.

1. Both the farmers and the homemakers have a good general knowledge of the Extension Service in the parish, and have demonstrated their willingness to accept its way of teaching. Does this fact mean that new farm or homemaking practices that fit the needs of these people should be, at least fairly, readily accepted and put into use where practicable?

2. A high percentage of the farmers and homemakers have adopted some of the practices that were studied. However, a high percentage have not adopted other of the practices even though all of the farmers and homemakers have had some contact with Extension. This raises a question as to whether the most needed farm and homemaking practices are being emphasized, or whether emphasis on the practices should be given a different approach. For example, 81 percent of the homemakers who grow chickens have not adopted the practice of vaccinating chickens to prevent chicken pox. Out of 13 homemakers who gave reasons for not adopting this practice, nine stated, in effect, that they had never had trouble with chicken pox among their chickens. Does this indicate that chicken pox might not be a serious problem, or that further educational work in ways of identifying the disease is needed?

Another example, 60 percent of the farmers who grow corn have not adopted the practice of using hybrid corn as a part of or all the crop. Thirteen farmers gave reasons for not adopting the practice. Of these, five said they had never learned enough about hybrid; three said, in effect, it was too soft; and one said

it was too hard. Does this indicate the need by farmers for a better understanding of hybrid corn in general, and specifically the strains that are, perhaps, better adapted to the needs of these farmers?

3. A much higher percentage of the farmers and homemakers who have a "high" level of living, who have more formal schooling and who have had "much" contact with Extension have adopted recommended practices than have the other comparable groups. Would further careful planning suggest possible ways of reaching these families that have had less contact with Extension and are known to have adopted a lower percentage of farm and homemaking practices?

4. There is little or no correlation between the percentage of farmers and homemakers who have adopted the recommended practices, and the number of years the practices have been emphasized in the Extension program. Does this suggest that other factors are to be considered such as adaptability to the needs of the people, and cost and availability of material involved in carrying out the practice? Does it indicate that further careful planning may be needed?

Extension Teaching Methods

When the percentage naming different teaching methods as a source of information for adopting practices are grouped and adjusted to 100, a good, rather well-balanced pattern seems to be shown for Extension teaching with these families.

Individual Methods.

This group is credited with 28 percent of the practices adopted by farmers and 11 percent of those adopted by homemakers. Should Extension consider setting up more result demonstration designed primarily for the farmers and homemakers who have had less contact with Extension? Would as many well planned farm or home visits as practicable be effective in further expanding Extension teaching to these families?

Indirect Influence.

Indirect influence is credited with nine percent of the practices adopted by farmers and 17 percent by homemakers. This seems to place indirect influence relatively low in the teaching pattern in this parish, even though it is usually

accepted as one of the most powerful forces at work in the field of Extension teaching. Would a wider use of well trained local leaders be effective in further expanding the influence of Extension teaching, particularly with those families who have had less contact with Extension?

The general attitude of these farmers and homemakers toward Extension seems to be favorable. They have accepted Extension. Extension, nevertheless, like all growing institutions, must continually strive to adapt itself to changing conditions that affect the people it serves. It is hoped that this study will be of some value in promoting that end.

